

Weatherization Program Notice 93-6

Effective Date - February 12, 1993

SUBJECT: FIFTH QUARTER OPTION FOR WEATHERIZATION FUNDING

PURPOSE: To establish procedures for optional fifth quarter application and funding for States in Program Year 1993.

SCOPE: The procedures herein apply to all grantees applying for financial assistance under the Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE).

BACKGROUND: At the present time, we are anticipating publication of the revised Weatherization Rule in the Federal Register in February 1993. The revisions will be effective immediately and can have a major impact on the content of the State Plans and grant applications. However, the timing of the publication is such that the States may be unable to prepare their plans, conduct the required public hearings, and submit applications in time to meet the March 31, 1993 deadline for award of the FY 93 renewals.

One way to address this problem would be to have the States and DOE go through the entire renewal process based on the current program regulations and then undertake a major revision in accordance with the revised Rule. This option would only apply to States who are ready to implement the major provisions of the new Rule. Such an approach, however, would clearly be unduly burdensome on both the States and the DOE Support Offices.

PROCEDURES: After soliciting comments and recommendations from the Weatherization Program Managers, the following options are proposed for funding for State Weatherization grantees in 1993:

OPTION I - SUBMIT STATE PLAN FOR 100% 1993 FUNDING

States which do not anticipate a significant change in program operations as a result of the new rule or that wish to apply for their full allocation under the current rule, can go through the entire renewal process based upon the current program regulations and receive 100% funding prior to April 1. Requests to revise the budget can be made at any time during the year in order to either finalize the carryover or to reflect a desired change in program operations.

OPTION II - SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR 25% 1993 FUNDING

States which anticipate a significant change as a result of the new Rule can postpone the preparation of detailed program plans, and may apply for 25% of their allocations to cover program operations during the first quarter (April 1 - June 30). States that determine that more than 25% of funding will be needed during the quarter will be required to submit written justification.

1. Under this option, DOE will approve, as requested, either (a) 25% partial funding with a 25% budget, or (b) 25% partial funding and a full year budget, subject to the availability of additional funds. (There is standard Chicago Field Office boiler-plate language available to cover the latter situation.)

The simplified application for 25% funding will consist of the following:

a. Standard Form 424 - Application for Federal Assistance:

Grantee level information only.

(covering 25% of funds, plus any PVE funds proposed for inclusion in the FY 93 program year.)

b. Standard Form 424A - Budget Information (covering either 25% or 100% of the funds (or some approved amount in between), plus PVE and estimated carryover.

c. All Required Assurances and Certifications:

- Non-Construction Programs
- Nondiscrimination
- Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters
- Drug-Free Workplace
- Lobbying

d. Production Estimates/Goals:

For first quarter of the 1993 program year (Grantee Level Only).

e. States must specify in writing that they will continue program operations in the first quarter of 1993 under their 1992 State Plan. This will ensure continuity in program requirements.

2. Since this is only an interim step in the FY 1993 award process, we do not believe that detailed budget documentation and justification should be required from the States at this time nor would a hearing be required. Detailed programmatic evaluation should be held in abeyance, pending submission of the new plans based on the revised Rule.

3. The States will have 60 days (or up to 120 days if an extension of time is requested and approved by the Support Office Director) from the date of publication of the revised Rule to prepare complete, detailed plans, conduct the required public hearings and submit their applications for the balance of their funding. Those plans should cover a 100% of their 1993 allocation. At that time the plans and applications will be subject to a complete programmatic and business management review by the DOE Support Office Program and Procurement Staff.

Jeanne Van Vlandren, Director
Weatherization Assistance Programs Division
Conservation and Renewable Energy